REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration is requested. In response to the objection to the drawings under Rule 83(a), claim 31 has been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawing objection is requested. Additionally, claims 12 and 25 have been amended in light of the Examiner's suggestions. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is requested.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 of claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-17 and 19-27 as being anticipated by Irwin Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,471,039 ("Irwin"), claims 15-17 as being anticipated by Pearson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,411,259 ("Pearson"), claims 15-18 as being anticipated by Pieterse et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,080,064 ("Pieterse"), and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of claims 7, 13, 14 and 28-31 as being unpatentable over Irwin in view of Pieterse, are respectfully traversed.

The present invention as claimed is directed to a machine readable game card and system for playing a card game, wherein the game card has a display surface containing an image representative of a particular value, and a readable surface including a path having an attribute of a predetermined value corresponding to said particular value represented by said image. According to the invention, the value of the game card is capable of being determined by making a simple measurement of the path attribute value between two terminals of the path, without having to rely on a database or other data storage medium, as is the case with conventional readable cards using bar codes, magnetic stripes or other optical or mechanical readers. For example, as shown in Fig. 2, card 101 contains an image on its display surface 201, indicating 10 points. Accordingly, the path 302 formed on readable surface 301 of the card 101 has an attribute value of 10 as measured between terminals 303 and 304 (e.g., 10 millivolts, 10 ohms, 10 milliamps, etc,). The card game system identifies game cards by placing them in a card reader connected to a computer having access to the game.

In contrast, none of the prior art references relied upon to reject the claims discloses or suggests a machine readable game card or system for playing a card game as claimed. Irwin discloses an electronic validation machine for documents such as probability lottery game cards, wherein a portion of an electrical circuit is formed on the

card, which circuit has a known electrical signature that will be changed if the card is altered from its initial state. Irwin does not disclose a card game played with a computer. Irwin does not disclose that the attribute value of the electrical circuit corresponds to a predetermined value represented by an image on the card. In this regard, Irwin is no more relevant than the Behm patent discussed at page 2 of the specification and cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application. Clearly, the validation system of Irwin cannot have a value that reveals the value of the prize images on the card, as such would defeat the randomness characteristic of the lottery card.

Pearson discloses a video game that may accept data input from a data carrier 21 contained on a card such as a baseball card, through a reader 22. The data carrier is not defined by a measurement between two terminals of a path, but instead is a conventional data carrier such as a magnetic stripe, etc. Further, the data on the carrier 21 does not correspond to any value represented by an image on the card. Instead, the data corresponds to identification data such as the identification of a baseball player pictured on the card.

Pieterse discloses a joystick device for remotely playing games, having a card slot 14 for accepting a smart card 2. The smart card 2 is used either to pay for the games or to collect prizes via a telephone network. The smart card 2 is not a game card. Pieterse does not disclose any card game playable with the joystick pointer device. The smart card 2 does not contain any image representing any value, and does not have any path with a measurable attribute between two terminals that corresponds to the value represented by any image. The value in the smart card 2 does not identify the card, and thus reading of the value in the smart card does not correspond to identifying a game card of a card game as disclosed and claimed.

Inasmuch as none of Irwin, Pearson or Pieterse disclose the novel features as set forth in claims 1-30, no combination of those prior art references could result in the claimed invention under an obviousness theory. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection are requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

Please charge any fee or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,			
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